

# **The APHIS Financial Data Warehouse**

## **What is a Data Warehouse?**

A data warehouse stores historical data from a database. It is not a real-time data accounting program. Information gathered by the FFIS program is downloaded to the data warehouse each evening following a series of checks to make sure that the data is complete. The warehouse is read only accessible.

Data warehouses can be very large because they are designed to store detailed information for use in reporting and analysis. Imagine it as a huge office building. One day of data from the FFIS accounting system builds a floor of the building. The advantage to the data warehouse is that users can “slice and dice” the data in the warehouse in infinite ways to create reports on information that has been stored in the warehouse. Data that has been loaded to the warehouse will continue to be available for a long time.

Data in the data warehouse is not changed; it is modified by later information input from the FFIS system. Data in the data warehouse is not ‘current’, although it might be as up to date as yesterday. The APHIS Data Warehouse will generally contain data that is up to date through the previous day except payroll. Payroll is updated by the last closed pay period. If the data hasn’t been updated, an e-mail notice will be sent out to users.

## **Accessing the Financial Data Warehouse (FDW)**

### **The Brio Insight Plug-in**

Brio is a data base reporting tool that allows users to interact with the data in the data warehouse. The Brio Insight Plug-in allows users to access the data warehouse via the intranet web site. A ‘plug-in’ is an application that works with a browser such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. The Brio Insight plug-in must be available on your personal computer to access the data warehouse via the Internet.

### **The three delivery systems for accessing the warehouse are:**

Brio Query **Explorer** delivers query, analysis, and reporting capabilities for power users who need to directly access data sources, similar to the old FOCUS users.

Brio Query **Insight** delivers analysis, and reporting functionality within a Web browser for Internet access to information in the Financial Data Warehouse. Insight users are usually analysts who occasionally need to make modifications to existing reports.

Brio Query **Quickview** offers simplified report viewing and data refresh for users who need to view canned reports but no modifications.

### **Accessing the Financial Data Warehouse (FDW) via the Intranet**

Each evening, after the day's activity is completed in FFIS, the current day's information is sent to the Warehouse via a 'nightly load process'. After the nightly load has finished processing and the warehouse tables are updated, the updated information is available to Brio users on the Financial Data Warehouse Web Site. The address is <http://fdw.usda.gov>.

An Intranet is a network that operates in the same way the Internet operates, with TCP/IP protocols. An Intranet is accessible only by the organization's members, employees, or others with authorization. An intranet's Web sites look and act like Internet Web sites but the fire wall surround an intranet to fend off unauthorized access. The FDW web site is only available on the intranet so **do not type www in front of fdw.usda.gov**.

Fire walls require that you have a user name and logon when logging on to the data warehouse through the intranet. Prior to logging on to the Financial Data Warehouse web site, be sure that you have your data warehouse user name and password. If you do not have this information and instructions for changing the password to one that only you know, contact your security officer before trying to access the data warehouse.